Nuggets of News

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
gold discovered 1860
1986
recording the past for the future

P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Ore. 97525
504 First Avenue

September 1993

MINER

©1993 By Ivy Doherty

In 1954 Miner sidled from the pages of a story book, took up residence in The Dog House for an idyllic interval, then succeeded in worming his way into the museum of my heart.

My first glimpse of him was in the field below our being-built, family home in the foothills east of Gold Hill's Upper River Road and the Rogue River. I saw that a dozen or more local children surrounded him who was, at the moment a cheery dispenser of chewing gum and lollipops. I was to learn soon that such a Pied Piper drama was a daily, after-school event in our pleasant neck of the woods.

I was to learn, too, that the affable giver of gifts was named Miner and that his domicile was a caboose, a Southern Pacific "has-been" which he had named The Dog House.

When, eventually, I viewed him at close range I found him an acceptable mixture of Donegal Leprechaun and Swiss yodeler. He was not much over five feet in height and a bit on the chubby side; the latter meant, I was soon to discover, his twill pants waist buttons popped regularly without warning, forcing him to substitute rusted sixteen penny nails for flown buttons until some far-in-the-future mending day arrived.

His hair, a slightly carroty color, was often hidden beneath an oil-stained, moth-chewed, gray Al Capone felt hat which he insisted on wearing at the correct Capone angle.

The pictures in his light-blue eyes left no doubt in me that he had journeyed far and had absorbed much concerning the ways of life on the long trip west to Oregon. The eyes' expressions also indicated to me that there were sections of life he watched with unadulterated cynicism, as well as non-suppressible mirth.

Owing to his complexion's being typically that of a carrot head the hue of his nose in warm weather verged on scarlet, in spite of his having taken the pledge about seventy years previously.

His and my friendship developed gradually; in fact, it was months before I learned of his rather impressive-sounding name, James Ferbrache, for no one in our neighborhood seemed to bother much with such trivialities as real names. To the residents he was Miner, a name appropriate and adequate. Why should I settle for any other?

His father being an 1800's itinerant dentist and the family, consequently living a sort of Appleseed existence, how could I expect him to know his birth place! At the thought his laughter gushing out caused him to grab for his George Washington variety of false teeth and once they were restored to their safe place he said, "Listen Young Lady, shouldn't plain Illinois be good enough? Don't be too demanding!"

All that mattered about his being born, he advised, was that his parents had cared well for him, had allowed him to be a free spirit, and had encouraged him to be literate.

He could spout poetry by the ream and with special joy: "--Full many a gem of purest ray serene --", "--Out, damned spot --!", "--Seeking the bubble reputation, even in the cannon's mouth--", "My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream--"

He was saturated with Biblical information, prided himself on his cynical and superior non-believer status.

"That business in the Old Testament," he'd sneer. "The Lord said": Who, actually, did the saying about subjects like going out and killing, and leaving only the maidens? The fat old priests, of course! No one's fooling me!" Out would gush a laugh that caused him a rapid grab for his teeth.

Those teeth: I wondered often what his father's reaction would have been could he witness Miner's frequently taking sections of them apart, rearranging them with the aim in mind of a more comfortable fit, and gluing them in place, at last, with clear, gooey cement from a metal tube. And about that after taste? I confess I held a genuine fear that one day the glue would perform too well and his teeth would, consequently, be stuck permanently to his aged gums.

Following the parade, games and refreshments were enjoyed in Gold Hill City Park. This year we sold balloons and did face painting. Although we didn't make much of a profit, our appearance was important, because it let the public know that we are still in existence.

Amy Lindgren waits patiently as President Marge Martin paints a heart and star on her cute little cheeks. The photograph below shows our award winning float.
Photographs by Linda Genaw

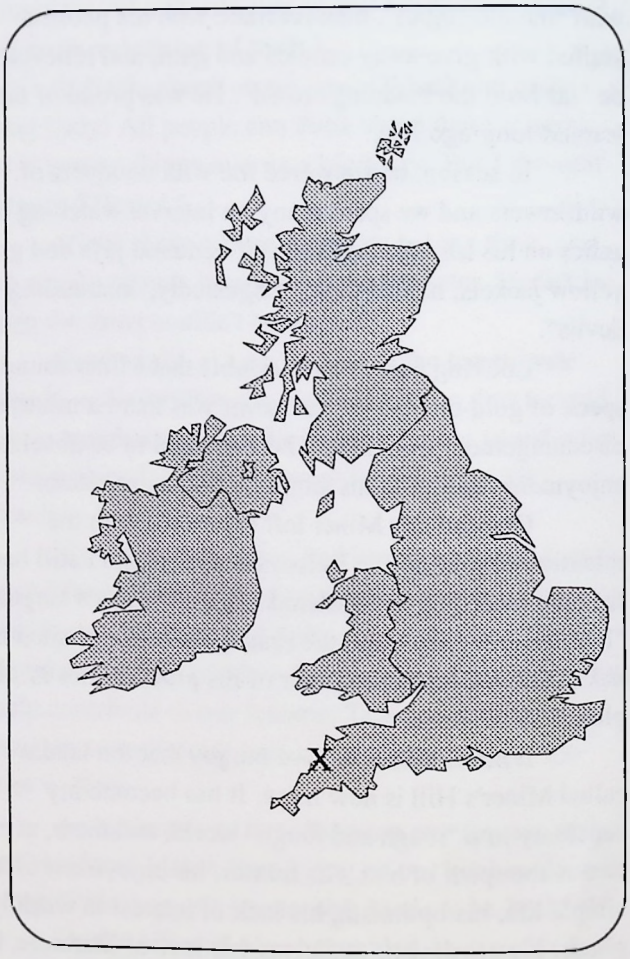
CUSHMAN'S GET CHANCE-IN-A-LIFETIME

Tom Cushman and family have accepted a chance-in-a-lifetime opportunity to exchange jobs with a teacher from England for the 1993-1994 school year. They will be living in Bude, a coastal town in Cornwall County.

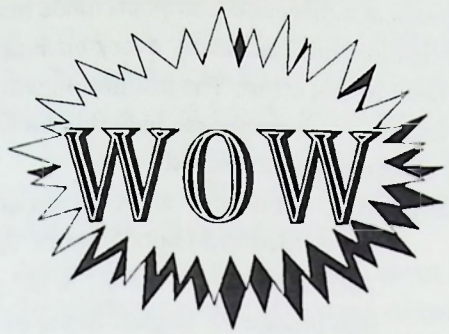
According to those who have traveled in England, the Cornish Coast offers spectacular scenery similar to the Oregon Coast minus the trees. Quaint fishing villages tumble down to the sea. Dutch and German tourist flock to the area in the summer months. Bude swells from 7,000 to 35,000 during the tourist season.

The Cushmans are bracing for culture shock, since this remote region of England offers few if any familiar American sights, sounds, customs, businesses or food. The children, all of whom will be attending the same school, expect to wear uniforms, learn to understand a strange accent, and try new sports such as squash, cricket, and rounders. Luckily, they played soccer for many years while at Patrick Elementary School.

We expect an occasional update from Tom during their stay. And incidentally, if you hear an English accent around Gold Hill, introduce yourself to Jane, Roger, Lara (age 4) and Clare (age 9) Adams. They will be living in the Cushman's house.



X Marks the location of Bude, England where the Cushmans will be spending the next year.



Have you been in downtown Gold Hill lately? Have you seen Second Avenue? Do you know what's going on? Do you know who's behind this? The following will answer some of these questions.

A little over two years ago member, Art Campbell, approached our society with an idea he had envisioned for Gold Hill. His idea was getting people to stop in Gold Hill and visit a while. Perhaps while they lingered they would have an opportunity to learn more about the history of Gold Hill and trade with the town's merchants. We know that there is quite an interest in our heritage as a city by the number of people who visited the Gold Hill Historical Society Museum. Nearly all visitors express an interest in area mining and other activities that have taken place in Gold Hill. We saw then how we could fit into his vision. We would be able to provide the historical data needed for displays around town. We weren't the only organization that would be involved. Campbell's vision was so large and well thought out that it would incorporate every club, school, association and business in town to make it work. It promoted an information center, beautification of town, tourism, commerce, community pride and involvement.

Campbell established Gold Hill Heritage and Economic Development Association. It is a registered corporation with the State of Oregon, and is a non-profit organization for public benefit. He then began writing letters and visiting city, county, state and Southern Pacific Railroad officials making inquiries so that he was able to answer the many questions asked of him as accurately as possible. He definitely did his home work. Promoting his idea was not an easy task, he was met with opposition. Some town folks and business men were worried about having to pay higher taxes or being forced to spend money on improvements that they couldn't afford.

A survey was sent to all business men with several questions pertaining to Gold Hill. They included such items as a choice of time period themes from 1895-1910, 1910-1925 and 1925-1940 and a list of ideas that would promote tourism and business. They included more & better signs off freeway, extended bike path, attractive city signs, public rest rooms in park, picnic benches, RV waste disposal, trees & landscaping, improved sidewalks, uniform facades on buildings and a place for their suggestions.

The response to the questionnaire was great. Campbell received a number of suggestions and ideas to add to his own. The time period chosen by 75% of the businesses was the 1895-1910 era. This information was then tabulated and given to the merchants to look over.

Campbell set about studying traffic data and statistics. The statistics were compiled and published by Morehouse Research and Publications and mailed to each business in Gold Hill. These traffic statistics were fascinating. An unbelievable amount of traffic passes Gold Hill on the freeway each year, something like 900,000 cars. Not only did he research traffic data, he measured right of ways, easements, etc. in an effort to make plans for a proposed bike path and the many other improvements he visualized for Gold Hill. Most any day, he could be located somewhere around Gold Hill, talking with business men, citizens and youngsters. He can probably tell you where every water, gas, electric and sewer lines are located within the city limits.

While Art was traveling around Oregon promoting his book *Antelope the Saga of a Western Town* he took slides of various towns main streets. He asked questions and took notes on how they set up street lights, parking, planters, artifacts and appropriated funds and accomplished their transformation. He compiled this information and then put together a slide show which he presented to various associations and businessmen in town. He showed what several other Oregon towns have done to improve the appearance of their business district. He also included his beautiful water color paintings of how he envisioned some of the present buildings to appear. When Art visited the Gold Hill Historical Society he had everyone at the meeting buzzing with ideas of how we could fit into this vision of historic Gold Hill. As he visited other groups and individuals, interest started growing. So much so that several individuals donated money and artifacts toward the effort.

Campbell and historian Linda Genaw located a 1959 +1960 safety award at White City Steel's scrap yard that was from the Beaver Cement Company. The base of the monument measures about two feet by six feet, the top of the monument is about four feet wide and five feet tall. This handsome monument was purchased by the Gold Hill Heritage and Economic Development Association and will

be returned to Gold Hill when an appropriate location is found.

Last Christmas (1992) The Miner's Daughter had a Christmas Bazaar, the proceeds were earmarked for flowers and flowers boxes. At this same time a coupon paper was published that included advertisements offering services or goods at a discount. Campbell made history with this publication, because nearly every business in town co-operated in this effort. The promotion was a success, the idea was to keep people in Gold Hill to do their holiday shopping and it worked.

The photograph above shows the monument as it sits awaiting its return to Gold Hill. The ladder in photo was used to climb on so we could get far enough away to photograph the wording on the safety award pictured below.
Photo by Art Campbell

In early spring, Art went to work. Crater and North Medford High School's Technical Arts Departments cut 2" X 12" planks into precise 95 angles. Some of the material for the boxes are recycled lumber from the Medco mill, other recycled materials include cedar from a fence project in Sams Valley, water bed liners for the boxes to hold moisture and keep the wood and dirt separate are from Goodwill Industries and the Salvation Army and the rope for the handles came from Camp White. Campbell, Tom Cushman, Ed Reed, Tom Baskin, Richard Phelps, Gabe Duron, Kirk Campbell, Warren Hartman, John Evans, and others put the flower boxes together and Pat Lowrie from This Old House Antiques planted the flowers. Some of the flower boxes were made at Hanby Middle School by Mr. Stoner's class. The flower boxes and other planters that were made from mop buckets, milk cans, water cans, cheese cans, old washing machine tubs and an ore car were placed in front of the business along Second and Fourth Avenues. The ore car that is in front of Maggies Pizza was made in Colorado about 1927. It was found and purchased in Brookings. Before arriving in Brookings it was located in Nevada. The car holds 3/4 ton of ore. The track was purchased from a mining supply in the Illinois Valley, there are two parallel sections 10 feet long. (nicknamed the Gold Hill Short Line) Sweed Machinery welded and prefabricated a tray to hold the ore which came from a mine north of Gold Hill. Flowers were also planted in the ore car. All of the planters in town are water by an intricate watering system. Timers are installed at various locations to regulate watering times in the

planters along Second Avenue. (the ore car has a separate watering system.) Water lines go over roofs of the buildings, the sprinkler heads themselves are inconspicuously placed directly above the planters. The system looks very professional, it was designed and put together entirely by volunteers. This group of people have been working steadily since rain or shine!

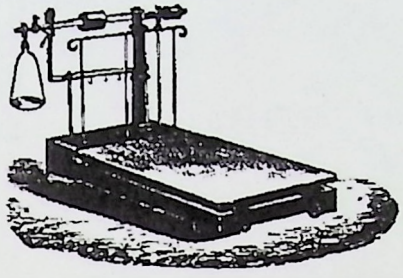
Another project that has come about is a handicap curb on the southeast corner of Second Avenue and Fourth Street. Mayor Mike Stanley, Rocky Hvall of Ron Joslin Construction and Campbell laid the forms and poured the cement. They also baby-sit the cement in shifts for twelve hours so it would not be vandalized. The first four wheel vehicle to use the curb was a young mother with a stroller. The installation of this curb saves people in wheelchairs a detour of 250 feet down the sidewalk by the Texaco, to the alley across Fourth Street and back up on the sidewalk in front of the Gold Hill Market and Deli just to gain access to the block where Morrow's Hardware, Gold Hill Mercantile, Ryan's Cycle, the Sportsman Tavern and This Old House Antiques are located.

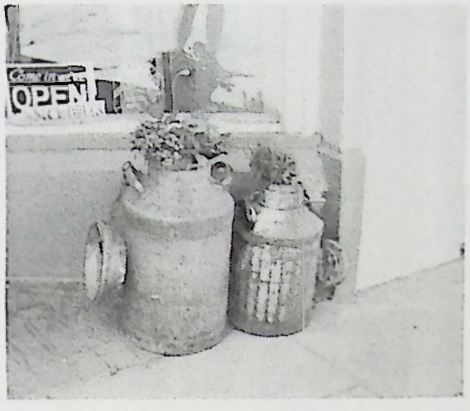
Federal grants are being sought for the construction of bike paths from the Gold Hill bridge to Patrick Elementary school. A cash match of $20,000.00 is needed. Gold Hill Heritage is asking various organization to help with fund raisers for funds. Volunteers are also need to help administer the funds. Several additional projects are in the works, if you are interested, and can help, just call Mr. Campbell at 855-7026 If he is not home, his answering machine is always on and he will return your call as soon as possible.

Businesses that have been actively participating with the beautification of Gold Hill include; Ryan's Cycle, Morrow's Hardware, El Rogue Cafe, The Yardsale, The Gold Hill Market and Deli, The Miner's Daughter, Sweed Machinery, John Ainsworth from The Steamboat Laundry, Ken's Beauty and Barber Shop, Shirley and Frank at Millie's Country Inn, The Gold Hill Hotel, The Long Branch and Sportsman Taverns, Ron's Texaco, This Old House Antiques, Cascade Nursery, Maggie's Pizza, Brick House Antiques and Jim and Christiana May.

Take time to walk through town and look around, you will see old whiskey barrels, hand cranked cream separators, antique lube stations, and various other pieces and parts of Gold Hill's history. If you don't happen to know what an item is, Campbell has reproduced pages from an old Sears and Roebuck catalog, enlarged the advertisement and mounted the page by the item so you have a convenient explanation and price of what it cost at the turn of the century.

A scale like the one pictured below can be seen in front of the Gold Hill Market & Deli LMG





STREET SCENES

By Linda Genaw

Ken's Beauty & Barber Shop

Gold Hill Historical Society 1993 Officers:

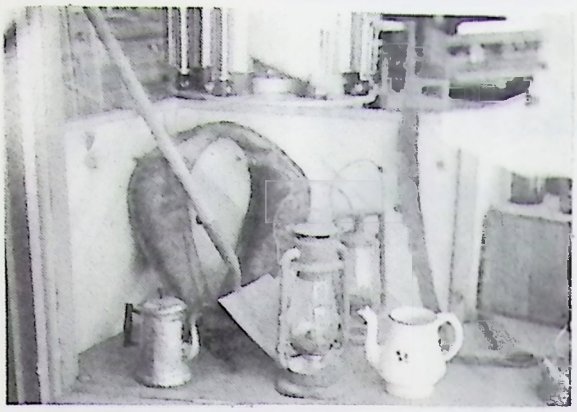
President:
Marge Martin 855-1559

Vice President:
Clare Moore 855-1891

Secretary:
Ted Wharton 773-4525

Treasurer:
Lynn Parker 855-9059

Gold Hill Historical Society Headquarters
504 First Avenue Gold Hill
Phone 855-1182



Window at Morrow's

In front of Maggie's

ATTENTION YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

We need volunteer workers to help us get our new museum ready for opening.

You could help with yard work, painting, wall papering, floor finishing, setting up displays, etc.

There is over 2000 square feet of house that needs attention. So far there has been only five or six people working. If you can spare a hour or so call Lyn Parker and she will put you to work.

Steamboat Laundry

El Rogue Cafe

Gold Hill Historical Society
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504 First Avenue
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525